



## **U.S. Army Environmental Center**

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### **Tackling pollution wins 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, Germany, national recognition in United States**

***Washington, D.C. (April 1, 2003)*** --- Persistent gains in the goal to reduce pollution just landed the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, Germany the Army's highest honor for environmental stewardship.

The Department of the Army recently announced the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion's win of the Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Quality for 2002.

At the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion, the Army manages 40,035 acres of land in support of military training and for public recreation. Located in central Bavaria, this land is the second largest United States' training area in Europe. Hohenfels is situated on pervious, rocky-layered terrain where water quality is a critical element of the environmental health of the region.

To maintain the purity and viability of this sensitive landscape, the environmental management office at the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion has taken aggressive steps to reduce pollution that demonstrate the Army's commitment to honoring foreign environmental regulations. They include:

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- Opening a state-of-the-art hazardous waste control center. The center uses a barcode system to track and control stock levels, expiration dates, storage locations and disposal of hazardous wastes such as antifreeze, paint and motor oil. This new system enables the Army to order and store only the quantity of these substances that it needs, and it provides an exact accounting of recycled materials for safe disposal. With this system in place, the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion has also upgraded the local community's hazardous materials storage facilities.
- Operating the Hohenfels Recycling Center, which collects and processes recyclable goods and household hazardous waste 7 days a week. Last year, the center collected 3,358 tons of recyclables.
- Implementing extensive water pollution control measures, such as constructing permanent ground water monitoring stations, installing oil water separators at all refueling facilities, and enacting spill response and prevention plans. A key component of this program is data-sharing and working closely with the local authorities of the host nation.

Additional accomplishments that earned the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion its environmental quality award include:

- Developing a sludge treatment process that has reduced disposal of sludge from vehicle wash racks by 80 percent.
- Cutting the use of pesticides by 70 percent.
- Protecting numerous threatened and endangered plants and animals listed in the *Red Data Book of Threatened and Endangered Species* for Germany and the State of Bavaria.

A panel of non-military and Army experts, including representatives from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, judged competitors for the Environmental Quality award.

"Responsible environmental stewardship and outstanding relations with the local community and host nation are what impressed me most about the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion's nomination package," said Marguerite Duffy, an environmental protection specialist from the Environmental Protection Agency who served on the judging panel. "The commitment and respect that go into the Army's environmental quality program at Hohenfels is worthy of the recognition it is receiving."

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As an award winner, the 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion stands out as a leading example of the investment the Army makes in environmental stewardship on the 16.7 million acres of land it manages while it trains and prepares America's soldiers to fight the global war on terrorism. The readiness of our soldiers depends upon the Army's ability to use its training and testing grounds to the fullest. Meeting and exceeding local, state and federal, as well as international regulations, ensures that restrictions on these grounds are minimal.

The 282<sup>nd</sup> Base Support Battalion is one of eight 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award winners. Each year, Army environmental professionals from around the world compete for recognition in the categories of natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental cleanup.

Winners of the Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards go on to participate in the Department of Defense's Environmental Awards competition.

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*The U.S. Army Environmental Center guides the Army's efforts to increase readiness, improve the well-being of our soldiers, and enhance community relationships through sound stewardship of the environment. Working through the Army headquarters' Director of Environmental Programs, the staff of the U.S. Army Environmental Center brings world-class expertise and innovative solutions to environmental stewardship challenges. As part of its mission, USAEC manages the Secretary of the Army Awards Program for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.*

*For more information on the recipients of the 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards, please visit USAEC's Web site at <http://aec.army.mil>*

**“Preserving the Environment while Protecting Our Freedom”**